Age of Empires Study Guide

**Greece**

* The ***POLIS***: the Greek term for city-state
* The central meeting point was generally on a hill, called an ***ACROPOLIS***: high city
  + Below the acropolis is the ***AGORA***: an open meeting place
* ***TYRANT***: rulers who seized power by force and were not subject to the law
* ***ARISTOCRACY***: rule of the best men
* ***OLIGARCHY***: rule of the few
* ***DEMOCRACY***: rule of the people

**The Persian Wars**

* Greek soldiers were called hoplites – heavily armored infantry (foot soldiers)
  + Hoplites fight in the phalanx – a rectangular formation where soldiers stand shoulder to shoulder
* The Immortals were heavy, Persian infantry shock troops that generally wore black tiaras that covered their faces
  + They are called Immortals because there were never less than 10,000 of them
  + A sick, injured, or dead Immortal was immediately replaced to maintain the unit
* Persia is humiliated by the defeat at Marathon
* All 300 Spartans, including Leonidas, die at Thermopylae
  + The Greek army and navy escape to fight another day
  + Thermopylae was a Persian victory
* Athens and Sparta stand alone as masters of the Aegean
* Athens enters a golden age of empire
* The Battles of Marathon and Thermopylae are the battles that save democracy in the western world

**Athens and Sparta**

* Spartan boys went to a military academy called the *Agoge* from 7 to 18
  + Learned battle tactics, discipline, physical education all for serving in the military
  + The final exam was to kill a slave!
  + Girls were trained to manage a home, could inherit property, chose who they married
  + Only the fittest baby boys were even allowed to live – any defect, and they boy was left out to die on a mountain
* Only two people were allowed to have names on their graves in Sparta: a soldier who died in battle or a woman who died in childbirth
* Spartan soldiers were given a shield by their mother and told: “With this shield, or on it.”
* It means: Come back victorious carrying this shield or your fellow soldiers are carrying your dead body back on top of it.
* To lose your shield in battle was the ultimate sign of cowardice – it meant you ran away!
* Athens was ruled by archons: a council of nine rulers and an assembly of citizens
* 594 BC: Solon the Lawgiver institutes land reforms that eventually set Athens on the path to democracy
* 510 BC: Cleisthenes creates a new council and opens the assembly to all male citizens – democracy!

**The Golden Age of Athens**

* Pericles becomes leader of the Athenian Empire
* Democracy prevails in Athens
* Ambitious leaders were ***OSTRACIZED*** :exiled for ten years by a vote of the people
* The Sophists believed that individuals should work to improve themselves through: education and rhetoric: the art of persuasive speaking
* Socrates believed all knowledge is already within you, critical examination brings it out
* Aristotle, student of Plato
  + *Politics*: 3 forms of government – monarchy, aristocracy and constitutional government
  + Believed constitutional government was the best
* The Peloponnesian War leaves Greece weak and vulnerable

**Alexander**

* Spreads Greek culture throughout the known world: The ***HELLENIZATION*** of the world

**Rome: The Eternal City**

* 753 BC: Rome is founded on the Italian Peninsula in a region called Latium
  + Rome is founded on Seven Hills: Capitoline Hill is the most important
* 509 BC: The last Etruscan king is expelled and Rome forms a republic
* ***REPUBLIC***: a system of government where the people maintain control over the state
* ***REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT***: a system of government where the people ELECT or choose representatives to carry out their wishes
* The Senate: 300 landowners who advised public officials and served for life
  + From the Latin ***SENEX***: meaning “old man,” senators were to be wise in their counsel
* SPQR: Senatus Populusque Romanus – The Senate and People of Rome

**The Punic Wars: Rome vs. Carthage (The Second Punic War is the important one!)**

* Rome and Carthage both desire control of the Mediterranean
* The Punic Wars come from the Roman name for the Phoenicians (Punicus)
* The only chance to slow Hannibal was the Fabian Strategy: guerilla warfare – a hit and run defensive strategy. (George Washington would later use these tactics to fight the American Revolution)
* In desperation, Rome turns to Cornelius Scipio with orders to invade Carthage
* Hannibal is forced to withdraw from Italy and is defeated by Scipio, who earns the title Africanus
* Cato the Elder ends every speech he gives in the Senate saying *“And I think Carthage must be destroyed”*
  + Scipio Africanus’ adopted son Scipio Aemilianus leads the final assault on Carthage in the Third Punic War
  + Rome allegedly ‘salts the earth’ so nothing would ever grow on Carthaginian soil ever again
  + This war sets Rome on the path to empire

**Shadows of the Empire, Part I: Fall of the Republic**

* Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus (Brothers) attempted to help the landless poor by taking land from the rich and giving to the poor
* Marius promised soldiers land in exchange for loyalty to him and not the state
* Sulla gave power to the Senate, eliminated popular assemblies, and then abdicates
  + After causing complete mayhem, he just leaves and goes home!
  + Actually established precedent that destroyed the republic
* Caesar’s triumph in Gaul made him extremely popular with the people
  + Caused him to be feared by the Senate
  + The Senate backs Pompey and orders Caesar to lay down his command and threatened the tribunes who opposed them. Caesar refuses and marches on Rome
  + Caesar claimed to be defending the tribunes: representatives of the people
  + Several senators feared Caesar’s ambition including Marcus Brutus, a close friend of Caesar

**Shadows of the Empire, Part II: Rise of the Empire**

* Caesar’s assassins believed they were restoring the Republic but the people of Rome did not share this belief
* Octavian, Caesar’s nephew controlled the west, including Rome
* Antony allies himself with Cleopatra, pharaoh of Egypt, in the East
* Antony and Cleopatra clash with Octavian at Actium
* Octavian is left as master of the Roman World
* January 1, 27 BC: The Senate votes Octavian the title *Augustus*- “Most Honored”
  + Awarded *Imperator- “*Commander of the Roman Army” This title is the basis for “Emperor”
  + To establish succession he shared consular and tribunican powers with his adopted son, Tiberias
  + With the death of Augustus in AD 14, the Senate recognized Tiberias as the new emperor
* Julius Caesar and Octavian Augustus established the Roman Empire
  + The *Pax Romana*-the Roman Peace

**The Rise of Christianity**

* AD 50: The Council of Jerusalem
  + Peter agrees with Paul’s position that new converts do not have to convert to Judaism to become Christian
  + Christianity becomes an independent religion open to the Roman world
* Christianity and Roman Paganism conflict
  + Christians do not worship Roman emperors and gods
  + Romans view Christianity as treasonous because they don’t partake in Roman values
  + But Christianity appeals to the masses, poor and rich alike
  + Christianity spreads across Europe and North Africa using the Roman network of roads
* Constantine proclaims the Edict of Milan in 331 allowing official acceptance and tolerance of Christianity
* Constantine himself is baptized Christian in 333

**Key Concepts:**

1. History has shown that influential leaders are remembered and honored with the title of “The Great.” Numerous examples include Ramesses the Great and Alexander the Great Using your knowledge of history, which leader should we honor in the pantheon on the greats: Leonidas, Hannibal, or Julius Caesar? Use facts from history to explain your thoughts and what makes your choice great.
2. Using your knowledge of history, which war had the greatest influence in western history: The Persian Wars (Greece and Persia) or the Punic Wars (Rome vs. Carthage)? Explain your choice. Speculate what might have happened had the loser of the war actually won.
3. Given what you know about Caesar’s actions: was the Senate justified in assassinating Caesar? Was Caesar dangerous enough to the republic to justify killing him? Should assassinations ever be used on political enemies of your country? Explain your choices.
4. Greece is considered to be the foundation and birthplace of democracy in the world. Rome is considered the birthplace of republican government. Using your knowledge of history and civics and assuming you could change the government of the United States, would you choose Spartan Aristocracy, Athenian Democracy, or Roman Republicanism? Explain and defend your decision using facts from history.